

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 /097 W

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O P 021618Z SEP 76

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8968

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY

/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY 915

AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SUVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

USLO PEKING

USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3545

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, RQ

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SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24) CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO:

STATE OF PLAY

REF: (A) SCHIELY-KRIENDLER TELCON OF SEP 1;
(B) USUN 3529
(C) USUN 3537

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF (A), MISOFF INFORMED NORWEGIAN DEPUTY PERM REP VRAALSEN OF OUR AGREEMENT TO PROCEED WITH HIS STRATEGY REPORTED IN REFS B AND C. MISOFF REPEATED THE CAVEAT THAT CUBAN AGREEMENT NOT TO RAISE PUERTO RICO FORMALLY IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (OR ANY OF ITS MAIN COMMITTEES) WOULD BE NECESSARY...

2. VRAALSEN IS OPIMINSTIC THAT CUBAN PERM REP ALARCON WILL AGREE TO HIS PROPOSAL. BUT IF HE DOES NOT, VRAALSEN SAID, WE ARE NO WORSE OFF THAN BEFORE, AND COULD PUSH FOR POSTPONEMENT. RECAPITULATING ALARCON'S THREAT TO CONSIDER GA ACTION ON PUERTO RICO IF POSTPONEMENT SUCCEEDS, VRAALSEN SUGGESTED THAT IF HIS CURRENT STRATEGY DOES NOT REPEAT NOT WORK, CAREFUL CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO FINDING SOME OTHER ALTERNATIVE TO POSTPONEMENT. HE IS NOT CLEAR ON WHAT SUCH AN ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE.

3. MISOFF LATER EXPRESSED CONCERN TO VRAALSEN THAT THE C-24 CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT (REF B AND C) SHOULD BE COUCHED SO THAT IT COULD NOT BE CONSTRUED TO REPRESENT A C-24 POSITION - EXCPET ON THE POINT OF CALLING FOR AN UPDATE OF THE 1974 REPORT. VRAALSEN REPLIED THAT HE IS AWARE OF THE PROBLEM, BELIEVES IT CAN BE WORKED OUT AND THAT, ONCE HE HAS OBTAINED CUBA PERMREP ALARCON'S AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO THE PROPOSAL, HE WILL DRAFT THE LANGUAGE ON CONSULTATIONS WITH US.

4. AUSTRALIAN MISOFF FORRESTER EXPRESSED SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE NORWEGIAN PROPOSAL, MANILY RELATED TO THE ROLE OF THE SYRIAN RAPPORTEURM HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE C-24 BUREAU COULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ENSURING AN OBJECTIVE UPDATING OF THE 1974 REPORT BUT ADDED THAT AT THIS POINT, WITH SALIM'S PORBABLE RESIGNATION AS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, THE COMPOSITION OF THE 1977 BUREAU
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IS NOT CLEAR.

5. COMMENT: VRAALSEN HAS BEEN COMPLETELY SUPPORTIVE OF OUR INTERESTS IN THIS ENTIRE PROCESS, AND WE BELIEVE HE SHOULD BE GIVEN HIS CHANCE TO IMPLEMENT THIS ALTERNATIVE STRATEGEM. IN OUR TALK WITH HIM THE LAST FEW DAYS, HOWEVER, WE HAVE DETECTED A NATURAL AND UNDERSTANDABLE DISTASTE FOR A DIRECT CONFRONTATION IN THE COMMITTEE OVER POST-

PONEMENT. HIS VAGUE CONTEMPLATION OF SOME OTHER
ALTERNATIVE TO POSTPONEMENT, IF THE PRESENT PLAN FAILS,
REFLECTS THIS INCLINATION. DEPENDING ON WHAT HE MIGHT
COME UP WITH IN THE EVENT OF FAILURE TO OBTAIN CUBAN
AGREEMENT TODAY, HOWEVER, WE INTEND TO HOLD HIS FEET TO
THE FIRE AND PRESS FOR A VOTE ON POSTPONEMENT, BASED
PRIMARILY ON THE FAIRLY CLEAR ESTIMATES OF OUTCOME WE
HAVE GLEANED FROM THE LOBBYING PROCESS.
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